

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a thermoplastic resin and fiber, wherein the fiber is cellulosic or lignocellulosic fiber that has ~~been sheared~~ a length-to-diameter ratio of at least 5.
2. (Original) The composite of claim 1, comprising at least about 5% by weight sheared fiber.
3. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is newsprint.
4. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is jute.
5. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is kenaf.
6. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is magazine paper.
7. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is bleached kraft board.
8. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is poly-coated paper.
9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polycarbonate, polybutylene, thermoplastic polyesters, polyethers, thermoplastic polyurethane, PVC, and Nylon.

11. (Original) The composite of claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic resin is polyethylene.

12. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic resin is polypropylene.

13. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein the composite comprises about 30% to about 70% by weight thermoplastic resin and about 30% to about 70% by weight fiber.

14. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising polyethylene and fiber, wherein the fiber is cellulosic or lignocellulosic fiber that has ~~been sheared~~ a length-to-diameter ratio of at least 5.

15. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a thermoplastic resin and fiber, wherein the composite has a flexural strength of at least 3,000 psi, and wherein the fiber is cellulosic or lignocellulosic fiber that has ~~been sheared~~ a length-to-diameter ratio of at least 5.

16. (Original) The composite of claim 15, wherein the composite has a flexural strength of at least 6,000 psi.

17. (Original) The composite of claim 15, wherein the composite has a flexural strength of at least 10,000 psi.

18-44 (Cancelled).

45. (Original) The composite of claim 1, further comprising an inorganic additive.

46. (Original) The composite of claim 45, wherein the inorganic additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, graphite, asbestos, wollastonite, mica, glass, fiber glass, chalk, talc, silica, ceramic, tire rubber powder, carbon fibers, and metal fibers.

47. (Original) The composite of claim 46, wherein the inorganic additive comprises from about 0.5% to about 20% of the total weight of the composite.

48. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein said composite is in the form of a pallet.

49. (Original) The composite of claim 48, wherein said pallet is injection molded.

50. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 1, wherein said composite is in the form of an article selected from the group consisting of panels, pipes, decking materials, boards, housings, sheets, poles, straps, fencing, members, doors, shutters, awnings, shades, signs, frames, window casings, backboards, wallboards, flooring, tiles, railroad ties, forms, trays, tool handles, stalls, bedding, dispensers, staves, films, wraps, totes, barrels, boxes, packing materials, baskets, straps, slips, racks, casings, binders, dividers, walls, indoor and outdoor carpets, rugs, wovens, and mats, frames, bookcases, sculptures, chairs, tables, desks, art, toys, games, wharves, piers, boats, masts, pollution control products, septic tanks, automotive panels, substrates, computer housings, above- and below-ground electrical casings, furniture, picnic tables, tents, playgrounds, benches, shelters, sporting goods, beds, bedpans, thread, filament, cloth, plaques, trays, hangers, servers, pools, insulation, caskets, bookcovers, clothes, canes, crutches, and other construction, agricultural, material handling, transportation, automotive, industrial, environmental, naval, electrical, electronic, recreational, medical, and textile.

51. (Original) The composite of claim 1, wherein said composite is in the form of a fiber, filament, or film.

54. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a resin, fiber, and an inorganic additive, wherein the fiber is cellulosic or lignocellulosic fiber that has ~~been sheared~~ a length-to-diameter ratio of at least 5.

55. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 54, wherein the inorganic additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, graphite, asbestos, wollastonite, mica, glass, fiber glass, chalk, talc, silica, ceramic, tire rubber powder, carbon fibers, and metal fibers.

56. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 54, wherein the composite comprises about 30% to about 70% by weight resin, about 30% to about 70% fiber, and about 0.5% to about 30% by weight inorganic fiber.

57. (Currently Amended) A composite comprising a resin and fibers, wherein the fiber is cellulosic or lignocellulosic fiber ~~that has been sheared~~ and wherein at least 50% of the fibers have a length to diameter ratio of at least 50.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 57, wherein the composite comprises about 30% to about 70% by weight resin and about 30% to about 70% by weight fibers.

61. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 57, further comprising an inorganic additive.

62. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 61, wherein the inorganic additive is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, graphite, asbestos, wollastonite, mica, glass, fiber glass, chalk, talc, silica, ceramic, tire rubber powder, carbon fibers, and metal fibers.

63. (Previously Presented) The composite of claim 61, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic resin.

64. (New) The composite of claim 1, wherein the length-to-diameter ratio is at least 10.

65. (New) The composite of claim 1, wherein the length-to-diameter ratio is at least 25.

66. (New) The composite of claim 1, wherein the fiber is cotton.